A DEFENCE OF Dr. Oliphant's SHORT DISCOURSE Of the USEFULNESS of VOMITING in FEVERS, In ANSWER to The *Melius inquirendum*, &c.

In a LETTER to a Friend.

Maledicus a Malefico non distat, nisi occasione. Quintil.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

Sir,

YOur Surpriſe was but equal to my own, when you ſaw the Anſwer to Dr. O's *Diſcourſe about Vomiting in evers*; the paſſing over his Reaſoning with ſeeming Negligence, and the Wreſting nd Suppreſſing his Quotations, were but ich Replyes as the Dr. expected, ſeing here could be no other: But the Repreſen-tion of the Matter of Fact is ſo groſly falſe, nd doth ſo conſiſt with my own Know-dge, that I thought my ſelf, in Juſtice and riendſhip, obliged to make you and the Vorld acquainted with it. And here I ſhall ot inſiſt on the Dr's own Aſſertion, which o you and me who know him, will go fur-er than that of the Anſwerer. But a entleman of Undoubted Credit, who was y when the Dr. was firſt called, told me, hat when he propoſed Vomiting to the Pa-ent, he ſo far diſowned the getting of ſe-eral Vomits before, that he told the Dr. he as ſure it was the only thing would do him ood, and that he was ſorry he had not cal-d him ſooner. And for the Anſwerer's Ap-ealing to the Apothecary's File, *by which*, e ſays, *it is manifeſt he had been Vomited ſe-eral times*, tho I had heard Mr. *Monteith*,

whom the Patient employed as ſuch, openly affirm the contrary, yet I could not imagine any Man would be ſo Bare-fac'd, without ſome Ground, ſo that to be fully ſatisfy'd, I went with the Dr. to the Shop, and not only ſaw the Ordinary's Bills, but got a Copy of them written by the Apothecary's own Servant, and Atteſted by him and his Maſter who was preſent, to be the only had been ordered before the Dr. was called: They are as follows.

July 12. R. *Decoct. Com. pro Clyſt. Lib.* 1. *In Colat. diſſolv. Elect. lenit. unc.* 1. *ſemis. Mel. Merc. unc.* 1. *Sal. Prunel. dr.* 1. *F. Clyſter.*

R. *Amygd. d. exc. no. x. ſem.* 4. *frig. maj. a dr.* 1. *pap. alb. dr.* 11. *cum ſ. q. Aq. Font. F. Emulſio, ad lib.* 1. *In Colat. diſſolv. ſach. cand. Aq. Cinam. a. unc. ſemis.*

July 13. R. *Decoct. amar. cum dupl. ſenna unc.* 4. *in Colat. diſſolv. ſal. abſinth. dr. ſemis. F. potio.* And each of theſe was once repeated.

And except the Anſwerer call Vomits an Emollient Clyſter, an Emulſion and the bitter Decoction with two Drachms of Senna, which is more proper for allaying of Vomiting than provoking it, there was not ſo much as the Veſtige of any other.

The Dr. did not think theſe worth mentioning in the Account he gave, becauſe they were no way proportioned to the Greatneſs

of the Diſeaſe, and what he had mentioned were the Remedies moſtly inſiſted upon, and he ſaid very juſtly, a Man might as reaſonably expect to take a Fort with no better Artillery than Pen-guns, as to think to make ſuch Evacuations as were evidently neceſſary by ſuch Ineffectual Medicines. Theſe frightful Symptoms as want of Pulſe, Spaſms, &c. which we are told in the Anſwer, followed the taking the Vomit ordered by the Dr, are as falſe as that the Anſwerer had given one himſelf. And the Dr. was ſo far from being in any great Apprehenſion of Danger, that it was not his own Motion to call any other Phyſician, it was done to comply with the Deſire of the Gentleman's own Lady, who had too near a Concern to be a proper Judge in the Affair, and who, without any Wonder, might be allarum'd, when the Life of ſo kind and deſerving a Huſband ſeem'd any way in Danger; When that other Phyſician and the Dr. came together, they found him in ſo Soft and Sound a Sleep, that they ſtayed a conſiderable time, before they would diſturb him, ſo far was he from that low Paſs the Anſwerer brings him to. And to vindicat what theſe two Gentlemen thought proper to be done afterwards, againſt any Reflections made by the Anſwerer, I think it is at leaſt ſufficient to

oppone their joynt Opinion againſt
ſingle one. As for the Dr's leaving the
tient before he ſaw the Effect of the Vom
it is of the ſame Piece with the reſt, ſei
he was actually by him moſt part of all th
Day. That this is the true Matter of Fa
any Man who will give himſelf the Troub
to enquire may be ſatisfied, either from t
Apothecary, or the Gentleman himſelf,
theſe who were Aſſiſtants. But it is no wo
der the Anſwerer had nothing but falſe C
lumnies to ſtuff his Paper with, for you kno
Stultorum Theſaurus Maledicentia.

Amongſt the other Slanders he aſperſe
the Dr. with, there can be none more M
licious than that of calling him a *Banterer*
Scripture, and ſaying it was a *Syrophenici*
Story; which you and my ſelf, and othe
who ever diſcourſed him on that head, kno
to be ſo falſe, that we have all the Reaſon
the World to think the Dr. does more firml
and upon more ſolid Grounds believe tho
Sacred Truths contained in Scripture th
any of his Accuſers do: But it is eaſie to d
cover the baſe Motives of ſome People
diſperſing ſuch Calumnies not only of hi
but of others who, I believe, are equally I
nocent. But I ſhall wave all this, and ma
haſt to the Anſwers given to the Dr's Re
ſons and Authorities.

And Firſt, He paſſeth over the Dr's own
eaſonings, by telling he grants all; and
hat the Dr. Diſcourſeth concerning Blood-
ng before Evacuations; he ſays concerns
vacuations in general, and ſo leaves them
s he found them. I have nothing to reply
o that, but refer you to them again; only
cannot underſtand what he means by Eva-
uations in general, ſeeing the Dr. is ſpeak-
ng plainly of Evacuations in continued Fe-
ers, when the Stomach and *Primæ viæ* are
vercharged with Choler and other Hu-
nours. I come next to the Authorities.

The Dr. had made an evident Conſe-
uence from two Aphoriſms of *Hippocrates*,
which may be reduced to a plain Sylogiſm,
hus, *When Humours are to be Evacuated, let*
it be done the way that Nature affects moſt, (*i. e.*
if there be an Inclination to Vomiting by Vo-
miting) *but in very acute Diſeaſes, let the Hu-*
mors be Evacuated that ſame day, if the Matter
is turgid (which is any day ſo long as the
Matter is turgid.) *Ergo.* Now, To overturn
his, the Anſwerer brings another Apho-
iſm, which proves that *Hippocrates* was a-
gainſt Vomiting in Fevers, which the Dr.
had obviated by acquainting us that *Hippo-*
crates knew no Effectual Vomit could be
afely given in any caſe. This is anſwered
y calling it Stuff, though it be the very
ſame

ſame thing *Fernel* ſays. The Dr. had alſo ta
ken notice, that the Fevers in thoſe Climat
and Times were far from what we now hav
which has made ſeveral of theſe Aphoriſm
in acute Diſeaſes, which either were not un
derſtood, or not to be followed in Fevers
which did not agree with theſe *Hippocrate*
had obſerved in any thing but the Name
do ſo much harm in the Cure of Fevers.
cannot paſs over what Dr. *Tournefort* ſays o
this head in his Learned Preface to the Hi
ſtory of *Plants about Paris*. *Deux ou trois lig*
nes, ſays he, *mal expliquées d' Hippocrate*
out coûté la vie a des millions de perſonnes
Depuis le renonvellement des lettres les Mede
cins qui ont eu le plus d' erudition & qui ſe ſon
piquez de bien entendre la Doctrine de ce gran
homme, ſe ſout retranchez a ſes maximes le
moins aſſurées, & ont tout a fait negligé la ma
tiere medicinale dont il ſe ſervoit. Two o
three Lines of *Hippocrates* ill Explained
have coſt a Million of People their Lives
Since the reſtoring of Letters, Phyſicians
who have had the moſt Learning, and who
have valued themſelves on the right Un-
derſtanding, the Doctrine of that great Man
have laid aſide ſuch of his Maxims as were
the leaſt certain, and have quite neglected
thoſe Medicins he uſed, by reaſon as he adds
afterwards, they were too violent.

Next

Next, he comes to *Celſus*, and tells us that the Authority the Dr. brings from him ſ, concerning intermitting Fevers; to prove he contrary of which, I ſhall only inſert the Quotation again with the Anſwerer's Additi-n. *Vomiting*, ſays *Celſus*, *as in perfect Health it is often neceſſary for ſuch as are Cho-erick, ſo it is alſo in theſe Diſeaſes which are ccaſioned by Choler*, what the Anſwerer dds from the Author, is, *Ergo omnibus qui nte febres horrore & tremore vexantur.* &c. *ig eceſſarius eſt*, in Engliſh, *therefore it is ne-eſſary to all who are troubled with Chilneſs and hivering before Fevers*, whereby it is evi-lent he is ſpeaking of putrid continued Fe-ers, which do moſt commonly Invade that way, and which by no means can be ſaid of Agues which have that trembling and Chil-neſs through their whole Courſe. However, hat you may not be in a doubt about *Celſus*'s Opinion, the Dr. quotes *Cap.* 7. *lib.* 3. *De Cu-atione febris ardentis*, of the cure of a burn-ng Fever, where he orders poſitively Vo-iting in the height, and cautions it not to e done before the Fourth day, *ſi pituita*, ayes he, *in Stomacho coiit, inclinata jam ac-eſſione, vomere cogendus eſt*, and afterwards, *Cum vero in ſummo incremento morbus eſt, u-ique non ante diem quartum, magna ſiti ante-ceden-*

cedente, frigida aqua copioſe preſtanda eſt, u
bibat etiam ultra ſatietatem; & cum jam ven
ter & precordia ultra modum repleta, ſatiſqu
refrigerata ſunt, vomere debet. Take notic
here that *Celſus* uſeth the word *Acceſſio* in
continued Fever, which ſolves the Objecti-
on the Anſwerer has to *Fernel's* Authori-
ty. The Dr. had told in his Diſcourſe, that
Celſus uſed ſuch Vomits as the Anſwerer ſets
down, and gives the Reaſons of it, which
need not repeat.

What he objects againſt the Quotations
of *Fernel* and *Plater*, I ſhall briefly diſcuſs.
He ſays *Fernel* ſpeaks in that firſt Citation
the Dr. adduceth, only of intermitting Fe-
vers; on the contnaty he is treating of all
theſe which are attended with redundancy o
Choler and other Humours, which all of em
have ſenſible remiſſions and Exacerbations,
which is what he means by the *Acceſſiones*,
and ſuch are almoſt all the Fevers we com-
monly have among us. He hath nothing to
ſay to the other Quotation, but that *Fernel*
ſpeaks there only of Purgatives, which the
Dr. brought as an Argument *a Majori*; fo
he had told before, That *the Ancients uſed*
theſe, becauſe they knew no effectual Vomits
which were ſafe, but uſed Purgatives, not-
withſtanding of the vaſt Commotion they make
in the whole Juices of the Body beyond Vomi-
tiv

tive and Laxative Medicines, ſuch was the force of the Indication. That *Plater* uſed only theſe Vomits, the Anſwerer ſpeaks of, is no wonder, ſeeing he knew no other; but to be obſtinatly addicted to ſuch now after the diſcovery of the many Excellent and ſafe Preparations of *Antimony*, is truely to be ſuch a one as the Anſwerer ſpeaks of, *whom Experience is never to make Wiſer.*

Etmuller by his own Confeſſion approves of *Antimonial* Vomits in all Fevers, and adheres to *Sydenham.* Now, to let you ſee it was not from him he had it, but from his Maſter *Johannes Nichael*, whoſe Practice he ſtrictly followed, *Preceptoris ſui ſcripta* (ſpeaking of *Etmuller*) *in adornanda praxi pro norma fere atque Cynoſura habuit, ~~norma~~ ſucceſſu certe feliciſimo*, ſays the Prefacer to *Michael's* Works. In which *Cap.* 3. *De febribus Patridis in genere.* He ſays, *Vomitoria optima ſunt ex Antimonio: Nam Antimoniatis radicitus hæ febres extingui Poſſunt*, and quots *Hartman*, whoſe practice hath been very much eſteemed, and who *Cap.* CCXXXV. ſpeaking of two Preparations of *Antimony*, whereof the one is for Vomiting, and the other for Purging, adds *Utervis autem pulvis, juſta doſi exhibitus, medetur febribus tam intermittentibus quam continuis.*

Willis

Willis he ownes gave Vomits in Feve
but not after the fourth Day, I know n
what way he can prove this, ſeing *Willis*
far from ſaying any ſuch thing. It's true,
that Obſervation the Dr. mentions, the V
mit is given the fourth Day, but that do
not ſay, but he might have given it later
the Indication had continued. But here ta
notice, that the Anſwerer ſpeaks not o
Word of that Vomit Quoted by the Dr, whic
Willis gives to a Slender Weakly Woma
which is the preciſe Quantity of *Emeti*
Wine the Dr. gave, becauſe it was to mak
both *Willis* and *Sydenham* guilty of giving
Quadruple Doſe. And here it is lucky for th
Anſwerer his Patients are not much acquai
ted with the Doſes of Medicines, otherwi
they might eaſily underſtand what good the
were to expect from one who is not aſhame
to owne that two Drachms of *Emetick Wi*
is a ſufficient Doſe for any thing above fiv
Years of Age. The Dr. indeed added to h
a very ſmall Quantity of a Gentle Purgativ
by which he deſigned chiefly to make th
Operation of the Vomit both Eaſie and Saf
and that this is not only his, but the Practi
of the beſt Phyſicians, he gives the Auth
rity of Dr. *Tournefort* in the forementione
Preface, where ſpeaking of what the Brea
and Organs of Reſpiration ſuffer in the tir

Vomiting, goes on, *C'eſt pour cela que les habiles Medecins ſe ſont aviſez ſagement meſler en pluſieurs rencontres les Emetiques ec les Purgatifs, pour eviter une partie de vio-tes Secouſſes que donnent les Emetiques, et pour erminer les matieres a ſortir par les deux uts.* It is for that Reaſon, ſays he, that e moſt Skilful Phyſicians, have wiſely jud-d it convenient in many Caſes, to mix mitive and Purgative Medicines together, t ſo they might prevent a part of the vi-nt Concuſſions which Vomits occaſion, d to make the Humors come forth as well wnward as upward.

The Authority of *Sylvius* is too particular be well Anſwered, therefore he paſſeth over, by telling that *Sylvius* ſpeaks only Fevers in general. Whereas he ſays par-to the Matter in Hand, *In Fevers, when e Gall works up, and is too plentiful, Vomi-g and Purging by Stool are chiefly conducible,* d afterwards poſitively prefers *Antimonial mits* to all other.

I am now ſafely come to Dr. *Sydenham*, d if he don't make the Charge good, I ſhall content both the Dr. and I quite the Field. e Anſwerer pretends, That theſe conti-ed Fevers Dr. *Sydenham* treats of, which ed four Years together, *viz.* 61. 62. 64: and were accompanyed with an In-

clination

clination to Vomit, were ſucceſsfully Cur
by Vomiting, but in the Fevers which fo
lowed in the 65, tho attended with the ſam
Symptoms, that Vomits had the contrar
Effect. Now to confute this, I ſhall onl
adduce *Sydenham*'s own Words, whereby
ſhall plainly appear, that what he had ſaid
Vomiting in that Quotation, he deſign'd fo
a General Method in moſt of their Fever
which, as the Dr. had taken notice of, wer
the ſame preciſely we uſually have amongſt u
That Fever which broke out in the 65 an
66 the Anſwerer ſpeaks of, was truly th
Plague, and is by *Sydenham* called *Febr*
Peſtilentialis & Peſtis, and was quite diffe
rent from theſe ordinary continued Fever
he had obſerved before, and becauſe Vomi
ting had not the ſame Succeſs in that, as i
the preceeding Fevers, he concluded it t
be of an extraordinary kind. I ſhall ad
his own Words. After he tells he ha
given a Vomit to a Lady ſeized with one
theſe Peſtilential Fevers, he adds, *Pag.*
95. *Poſtero mane, cum ægram iterum adire*
ei alvum profluere intelligo, quæ res, ab al
quot annorum uſu inſolentior viſa, mihi non
vem ſollicitudinem injecit. Exinde autem Febr
non vulgaris generis eſſe judicavi (quemadm
dum etiam eventus docuit) Proindeque aliam
ea, quæ ſuperius tradita eſt, quæque conſtanti ſu
ceſſ

eſſus ſerie hactenus a me uſurpata fuiſſet, meden-
di rationem ſibi vindicare. Next Day, ſays he, when I Viſited my Patient, I underſtood ſhe
d a Looſeneſs, which, by the Experience of
veral Years, ſeemed ſomewhat Unuſual, and
nade me not a little Anxious. But from
hat I concluded, it was not a Fever of an
rdinary kind (which I was alſo taught by
he Event) And therefore, that it required
nother Method of Cure different from what
have given before, and which, by a con-
ant Tract of Experience, I had found ſuc-
eſsful. From which it is plain to a Demon-
ration, That he had laid down that Method
f Vomiting, as a General Rule in the Cure
the moſt uſual Fevers. And for his uſing
urgatives afterwards, that he alſo did on
he Account of a New Fever, he had never
efore obſerved, as the Title of that *Schedule*
hows, which he calls *Schedula Monitoria de*
Novæ Febris Ingreſſu, and in the very begin-
ning tells the Occaſion of his Writing that
Schedule. Populares ſcilicet meos admonens,
ays he, *de ſubingreſſu Novæ cujuſdam Conſti-*
utionis, a qua pendet Febris Nova Species a
aper graſſantibus multum abludens. It was
o advertiſe his Countreymen, of the coming
n of a certain New Conſtitution, from which
id depend a New Sort of Fever, very far
ifferent from theſe which raged formerly.

And

And in Effect, that Fever was a Sort of *P*
ripneumonia Notha, as is evident from th
Schedule.

But last of all, the Answerer enters into
Confederacy with his sworn enemies, th
Mathematicks to defeat the Dr. and fo
that makes use of Dr. *P*'s Dissertation of th
Cure of Fevers by evacuation, wherein tha
Gentleman, after comparing the Cutaneou
Perspiration or sweating with the other E
vacuations, concludes, That if the Morbi
fick matter to be evacuated be actually mix
ed with the Blood, and circulating in th
Blood-Vessels, it will be Ten times soone
done by Sweating than Purging: Whereas
Dr. *O.* is supposing a great deal of the Few
el of the Fever stagnating in the Cavity o
the Stomach and Intestines, and of the Use
fulness of Evacuating that timeously by Vo
miting, which otherwise would mix wit
the Blood, and put us to the necessity o
Diaphoreticks to do our best to save the Pa
tient's life: But that Dissertation it seems h
understands as well as the other of Dr. *P*
Writings.

He Answers nothing to that Quotatio
the Dr. brings from Dr. *Tournfort* to prov
that the *French* Physicians had changed the
old way of treating Fevers, for that of g
ing *Antimony*, and other the most violen

vacu

vacuating Medicines we know. I shall only add, That to my certain Knowledge, it is so far the Practice in *England* of their best Physicians, that they are not contented to give *Antimony* in Infusion, such as is the *Emetick Wine*, but give the *Emetick Tartar*, which is *Antimony* in substance, and which operats a great deal more violently, and that on any day of the Fever, if the Indication continues. And I have frequently heard the Dr. tell, That when he was at *Oxford*, he knew some of the most famous Physicians there give strong Vomits towards the very last period of the Fever, to wit, when the Lethargick, and *Comatous Symptoms* were look't on as the Immediat Fore-runners of Death, and that sometimes with surprising Success.

I shall conclude with this, That I'm sorry the Dr. should have been so unluckily engaged to enter the Lists with one who had nothing to oppone to his plain Reasons, and irrefragable Authorities, but malicious Calumnies, and Ungentlemanny Scolding, savouring altogether of the Lee of the People and mean Education; which he thought as far beneath him to Answer, as to retort. I am.

Sir,

Yours, &c.